

and children's products (e.g. high chairs, car seats, changing pads and others).

ZERO TO THREE's mission is to ensure that all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life. For over thirty years, we have focused on translating the science of early brain development for parents, practitioners, and policymakers. We take an interdisciplinary approach and seek to underscore the fact that domains of development in very young children are inextricably related. We believe that "good health," as defined and included in our policy framework and priorities, is crucial for children to be able to develop, learn, and be ready for school. A baby's good health begins with her caregiver's ability to make sound choices about child rearing practices and use of baby products that can positively or negatively impact their child's development. In order to make these choices, caregivers need guidance resulting from evidence-based information about exposure to environmental and synthetic toxins.

This farsighted legislation will help prevent developmental delays in children that may be stemming from or linked to flame retardants. Research is showing that flame retardants chemicals are toxic to all human beings. However, the removal of such toxins is especially critical for pregnant mothers as well as infants and toddlers because they are more vulnerable to the effects of toxin exposure because of their rapid rate of growth. These stages are marked by rapid cell division and differentiation, organ formation, and brain development. This growth rate renders the systems particularly vulnerable to disruption. In fact, studies show that flame retardants have been correlated with negative effects to motor performance (coordination, fine motor skills), cognition (intelligence, visual perception, visual-motor integration, inhibitory control, verbal memory, and attention), and behavior (e.g. hyperactivity). Moreover, prenatal exposure to such toxins can result in miscarriage, birth defects, low birth weight, and preterm birth. In the longer-term, such exposure poses increased risk for development of childhood cancer, widespread disorders like asthma and obesity, infertility, and other child- and adult-onset diseases.

Flame retardants chemicals are added to the filling materials of children products and furniture to meet the California Standard Technical Bulletin (TB) 117. While California is the only state following TB 117, it has become the de facto national standard. Many national furniture manufacturers use this standard for all their furniture across the U.S. to avoid double inventory. Flame retardant chemicals continuously migrate out of household products and settle into dust.

Research shows that exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals can be associated with increased cancer, neurological deficits, developmental problems and reduced fertility. Although some flame retardants were removed from use in children sleepwear in the 1970s, similar flame retardants continue to be used in children products such as nursing pillows, car seats, sleeping wedges, portable crib mattresses, baby carriers, strollers and changing table pads. Toddlers who crawl in the dust and put their hands in their mouths have the highest levels of toxic flame retardant chemicals in their bodies. This is at an age when their neurological and reproductive organs are still developing and they are the most vulnerable to the toxic effects of the chemicals.

Based on recent studies and laboratory research, the California standard TB 117 has not been found to significantly improve fire safety or prevent ignitions from small flame sources. Furthermore, such baby products do not pose a fire hazard. According to fire pro-

tection groups, flame retardants have not led to improvements in fire safety and pose an unnecessary health hazard.

We urge the Congress to adopt the DUST Act to protect innocent infants and children from these harmful toxins. The DUST Act translates the compelling research into preventive policy and legislation that helps promote positive, healthy development that will resonate throughout a child's school career and life, increasing their individual well-being and future contributions to society.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW MELMED,  
*Executive Director.*

#### RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 401 OF AUBURN, WASHINGTON

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 2013*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 90th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 401 of Auburn, Washington on August 10, 2013. Troop 401 is one of the longest running Boy Scout Troops in its council and in the state. Beginning as Troop 1, under Scoutmaster Harlan R. Stone 90 years ago, they remain a strong and visible presence in the Auburn community.

On this momentous occasion, I'd like to personally thank Boy Scout Troop 401 for its outreach to the community and its service to the Auburn area. Each time I return to my District, Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the incredible work of the Boy Scout Troops in our communities. For almost a century, Troop 401 has helped make future leaders of this country by combining educational activities with lifelong values of service and ensuring they have fun in the process. Investing in our youth is the key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

Mr. Speaker, Boy Scout Troop 401 is a unique and dedicated group of young men. Their true impact is immeasurable and their outreach and accomplishments are legendary. Here's to the next 90 years, Mr. Speaker.

Special recognition belongs to the current Scouts and Scout Leaders of Troop 401. They are listed below.

Scouts: Andrew Armatas, Andrew Fischer, Brandon Griffin, Brandon Clark, Conner Whitlock, Connor Perius, Dalton Blair, D'Angelo Washington, David Barnett, Dennis Nugent, Dominic Nelson, Gavin Skaar, George Gibson, Gunter Rice, Guy Adamo, Hunter Danz, Hunter Whitlock, Isaac Park, Jacob Wheeler, Jarrett Floyd, Joey Cushing, Joshua Blair, Judah Stelzer, Justin Higginson, Kaelub Graevell, Kolby McCue, Kyle Wilkins, Lee Vandeberg, Marshall Barnhart, Matthew Higdon, Mikko Holcomb, Nicholas Mayer, Noah Koester, Spencer Jones, Steven Ernst, Steven Frank, Thomas Snyder, Tyler Cushing, Tyler Hayes, Tyler Schef, Wyatt Bishop, and Zane Barnhart.

Scout Leaders: Chris Cushing, Craig Koester, Daniel Whitlock, Dave Bishop, Gordon Blair, Holly Jones, James Nannery, John Wilson, Julie Fischer, Kevin Fischer, Kim Cushing, Laura Higdon, Laura Whitlock, Margrett Everitt, Michael Jones, Mitchell Gering, Nick Perius, Rex Frank, Sharon D'Adams, Stacey Bishop, Terri Danz, Tiffany Hopkins, and Will Cadra.

#### MONTESSORI ACADEMY OF PEMBROKE PINES

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 2013*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the newly expanded Montessori Academy in Pembroke Pines, FL.

As the 2013–2014 academic term commences, the Montessori Academy will educate students from infancy through middle school, with the goal of preparing them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens of the world community.

A quality education equips our youth with the skills they need to succeed in life, including critical thinking skills for inside and outside the classroom. Students attending the Montessori Academy will be able to take advantage of the new elementary and middle school classrooms, labs, arts and media centers, computer labs, and gymnasium.

As a parent of three students in Broward County schools, I am grateful for every fantastic teacher, school leader, and professional working to make a difference in the lives of our children. Education is not only the right of every child; it is the cornerstone of America's future.

I wish the Montessori Academy the best as faculty, staff, students, and parents prepare for a successful school year. Go Eagles!

#### HONORING MEDICARE'S 48TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 1, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 48 years of Medicare's existence.

The benefits Medicare has brought to older Americans are almost boundless. Millions of Americans have lived longer, more productive, healthier lives because of the medical care they received under this program. Many would have incurred financial ruin, suffered needlessly and died prematurely otherwise.

I voted for Medicare during my first summer as a congressman, back in 1965, during a time that was very different from the America of today.

For several years, President Lyndon Johnson had been calling for Congressional action to address the overwhelming need to extend medical care to all seniors, as only half of older adults had any health insurance during that era.

Responding to President Johnson's call for a Medicare bill, and following my own convictions, I joined with Rep. Cecil King of California and introduced in January of 1965, as my very first piece of legislation, a bill that would have provided hospital care under Social Security and an increase of benefits.